

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: TV-RADIO COVERAGE OF ME TRIP, MARCH 1.

FOR VEST FROM KING

SECRETARY'S ACTIVITIES IN ME RATED SCANT ONE-SENTANCE

MENTION BY ALL THREE NETWORK ANCHORMEN ON WATERGATE-DOM-

INATED EVENING NEWS SHOWS. CRONKITE, HOWEVER, INTERRUPTED

PROGRAM WITH BULLETIN THAT SYRIANS HAD REJECTED ISRAELI

PROPOSALS. ADDED THAT HAK SAID HE IS NOT GIVING UP EFFORT

TO GET SETTLEMENT. METROMEDIA LATER IN EVENING REPORTED

SAME WITHOUT COMMENT.

AYEM MARCH 2 RADIO REPORTS SYRIAN REJECTION WITH SOME PERSPECTIVE, SAYING DAMASCUS INITIAL REACTION WAS EXPECTED AND THAT ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME IN WASHINGTON IN TWO WEEKS WITH HAK CONTINUING TO ACT AS MIDDLE MAN. SPOT NEWSCASTS REPORTING HAK IN SAUDI ARABIA TALKING OIL WITH FAISAL, WITH NEXT STOP AMMAN.

ONLY TRAVELER HEARD WAS ABC'S, KOPPEL COMMENTING THAT ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT THAN HAK HAS ANTICIPATED. CBS (WASSERTHILE) REPORTS EX TEL AVIV THAT GOI NOT

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DISCOURAGED WITH SYRIAN REJECTION BECAUSE THAT'S WAY

EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN.

CBS FROM CAIRO (PETER WARD) HAD INTERESTING COMMENTARY CON-
TRASTING RECEPTIONS SADAT GAVE HAK AND GROMYKO. REPORTS
HAK RECEIVED "AT ONCE" BY SADAT WHILE GROMYKO WAS KEPT
WAITING IN SADAT'S OUTER OFFICE MARCH 1 WHILE EGYPTIAN
LEADER HELD TALKS WITH WORLD BANK'S MC NAMARA. SADAT
"APPARENTLY TOO BUSY TO SEE THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER."
COMMENTARY ALSO NOTES THAT US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS RE-
ESTABLISHED WITH GREAT PUBLIC ACCLAIM IN EGYPT, LEAVING
SOVS TO ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY'VE POURED VAST AMOUNTS
OF AID INTO EGYPT ONLY TO SEE EGYPT ELOPE WITH AMERICA.

NOTE: ALL THREE SUNDAY TALK SHOWS BOOKED WITH WATERGATE-
RELATED PROGRAMS; NO FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTARIES EX-
PECTED. CASEY

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